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July 17, 2023

Lynne Fox
International President
Workers United
22 South 22nd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Ms. Fox:

On September 14, 2022, the Committee on Education and Labor for the 117th Congress held a hearing titled "In Solidarity: Removing Barriers to Organizing," where Ms. Michelle Eisen testified. On her Truth in Testimony form, Ms. Eisen represented herself exclusively as a Starbucks barista.¹ Specifically, Ms. Eisen's Truth in Testimony form listed her position/title as "barista" and indicated she was representing herself at the hearing.²

It has come to the attention of the Committee on Education and the Workforce for the 118th Congress (Committee) that Workers United employed Ms. Eisen in 2022.³ In the Workers United calendar year 2022 Form LM-2 Labor Organization Annual Report, Ms. Eisen is listed as an organizer who was paid \$49,734 for her services by your labor union.⁴

The hearing's primary focus was Workers United's efforts to organize Starbucks. Without more context, Members of the Committee and the public who watched the hearing would come away from the hearing under the impression that Ms. Eisen was simply a barista at a Starbucks where organization efforts were underway. If Workers United had an employment relationship with Ms. Eisen, there was no indication provided of said relationship. Members of the Committee and public observers would have benefitted from knowing whether Workers United was paying Ms. Eisen as an organizer at the time of the hearing.

¹ *In Solidarity: Removing Barriers to Organizing: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Educ. & Lab.*, 117th Cong. (2022) (statement of Michelle Eisen),

https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/9.14.22_michelle_eisen_testimony.pdf.

² H. COMM. ON EDUC. & LAB., TRUTH IN TESTIMONY DISCLOSURE FORM, MS. MICHELLE EISEN (Sept. 14, 2022), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/ED/ED00/20220914/115096/HHRG-117-ED00-TTF-EisenM-20220914.pdf>.

³ Josh Christenson, *Starbucks Union Organizer Testified Before Congress Without Disclosing She Was Paid Nearly \$50K*, N.Y. POST, May 22, 2023, <https://nypost.com/2023/05/22/starbucks-union-organizer-kept-her-affiliation-from-congress/>.

⁴ U.S. DEP'T OF LAB., OFF. OF LAB.-MGMT. STANDARDS, FORM LM-2 LABOR ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT: 2022 WORKERS UNITED, SEIU, <https://olmsapps.dol.gov/query/orgReport.do?rptId=864431&rptForm=LM2Form>.

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Throughout the hearing, the @SBWorkersUnited Twitter profile tweeted several times. For example, the profile noted that it would be live tweeting the hearing and tweeted out when Ms. Eisen began her testimony.⁵ In another tweet the account identified Ms. Eisen as a “Starbucks union leader.”⁶ Two days prior to the hearing, the account noted that Ms. Eisen would be testifying in front of the Committee.⁷ Given these communications, the Committee is interested in Workers United’s involvement with Ms. Eisen’s testimony. Congressional hearings are an essential part of the legislative process. Information provided by witnesses at hearings has the potential to influence legislation and inform public discourse. Therefore, transparency in these matters is critical.

To gain a better understanding of Workers United’s employment relationship with Ms. Eisen and to determine the Union’s influence on her representations at the September 14, 2022, hearing, please provide the Committee responses to the following questions:

1. On what date did Ms. Eisen begin her employment with Workers United?
2. Is Ms. Eisen still employed by Workers United? If not, on what date did her employment with Workers United end?
3. On what dates did Ms. Eisen receive compensation from Workers United?
4. Did Workers United, or any of its agents, assist Ms. Eisen in writing her written testimony for the September 14, 2022, hearing or assist her in preparing to testify at this hearing?

I request that you provide the requested information by no later than July 31, 2023. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman

CC: The Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Ranking Member

⁵ @SBWorkersUnited, TWITTER (Sept. 14, 2022, 10:41 AM), <https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1570060258114146305>; @SBWorkersUnited, TWITTER (Sept. 14, 2022, 11:13 AM), <https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1570068273152274434>.

⁶ @SBWorkersUnited, TWITTER (Sept. 14, 2022, 12:33 PM), <https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1570088374643617794>.

⁷ @SBWorkersUnited, TWITTER (Sept. 12, 2022, 4:54 PM), <https://twitter.com/SBWorkersUnited/status/1569429368207986688>.